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WebSafe Offers Tool Against Medical Identity Fraud: The Crime that Can Kill You

Birmingham, Ala. --- It was a shock when bill collectors started calling Tracy Wright for a surgery he never had in a hospital he never entered. It took two full years to track down the man who stole his temporary driver's license and committed the latest twist in identity theft fraud: medical fraud. An early victim of this crime now claiming an estimated 500,000 Americans, the World Privacy Forum listed the case in its appeal to federal financial institution regulatory agencies and the Federal Trade Commission, who are soliciting comments for new rules on identity theft.

Wright, a Birmingham resident, doesn't mind being a national poster child for medical identity theft. "If I can help prevent this happening to someone else, I am happy to do it."

To help people like Wright prevent medical fraud, an Alabama company, WebSafe, Inc. created MyMedSafe, a totally patient controlled electronic medical records system. The patient enters and maintains his or her medical data and provides a code that permit medical personnel to access it from any Internet-based computer. According to the World Privacy Forum, the greatest danger comes from false medical records recorded from an imposter, such as the wrong blood type or a history of diabetes added onto the victim's record.

"We put the patient in control of their own medical records. When the patient arrives at a hospital or doctor's office, they can bring their MyMedSafe report with them or access their records from the Internet. They know they have accurate histories," said Don Moore, Director of Business Development for WebSafe, Inc.

The individual can store information including current medications, surgical histories, allergies and immunizations, as well as healthcare directives and medical powers of attorney. A wallet sized card can be carried which has a unique code which emergency personnel can use to access information which can literally be lifesaving.

WebSafe serves as a virtual deposit box storing not only medical records, but other personal information such as passports, wills, life insurance information, family photographs and computer data backups with records safely encrypted during transmission, storage and retrieval. The service costs less than a drive to the doctor's office, with accounts starting at \$2.95 per month.

MyMedSafe is endorsed by the Southern Medical Association as an excellent tool for medical data storage. President Bush set a priority for most Americans to have electronic health records within the next 10 years.

“Your medical records are going to be computerized by someone. With MyMedSafe, it will be you,” said Moore.

WebSafe, Inc. is a virtual filing storage company utilizing cutting-edge technology for safe and secure storage for businesses and individuals. WebSafe’s technology is Hacker Safe certified and meets the highest security scanning standards of the U.S. government. For more information visit www.WebSafe.com.

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